

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

The subject application is a national phase of PCT/GB2003/003841  
(International Publication number: **WO2004022106**) filed September 4, 2003.

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In re Application of :  
Blower, Philip John, *et al.* :  
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U.S. Serial No. TBD :  
 :  
 : Group Art Unit: TBD  
Filed: March 4, 2005 (herewith) : Examiner: TBD  
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For: METAL BINDING ... :  
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SIR:

***PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT***

Please amend the application as follows:

The currently pending claims and amendments thereto are recited beginning at page 2.

The Applicants' remarks begin at page 4.